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SOURCE Books as indicated.

1941 - 1943 DATA ON MINERAL DEPOSITS IN ALBANIA

The following report gives information on the chief mineral deposits in Albania, as described in two Italian studies published in 1941 and 1943. These studies state that Albania is potentially rich in iron ore, and that it has numerous chromite and some copper deposits.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

Ferrous Metals.

Ferrous mineral strata are found in the northeast section of Albania in the Kukës-Krasta area, and in the central-eastern section, the Pogradec-Elbasan area.

In the central-eastern section, the iron strata were discovered beneath limestone, near the crest which separates the Shkumbi valley from Lake Ohrid, in a 20 kilometer strip from Pogradec to Pishkash.(1) In this strip of land there are the following occurrences of iron ore: northwest of Memelisht, several kilometers from Pogradec; in the vicinity of Cervenake valley; north of Cervenake valley in the Hodonisht valley, where reserves of approximately 2 million tons of iron ore are to be found; approximately 3 kilometers north of Hodonisht valley and not far from where there is 6-meter compact stratum of this mineral; north of the above deposits, between Katjoli and Perrenjes; and northwest of the above deposits, near Pishkash. Other important strata appear northwest of this projection, between Librazhd and Elbasan, along the valley of the middle Shkumbi river.(2)

Brown or black hematite is found in connection with thick oolite or pisolite, mixed with quantities of magnetite, with rare nuclei of oligists and very few manifestations of limonite alterations.

The metal content is 55-60 percent. Proved reserves in this central-eastern region are considered to be at least 15 million tons /probably metric tons/ but there is reason to believe that the reserve is greater.

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The cost of transporting the ore from the mines to the road by mules and donkeys, and from the road to Durres by trucks, exceeds the actual cost of production. Consequently, construction was begun on a great overhead wire-cable to which other minor cables were to be attached. With this cable, passing to Qukes and Librazhd, it was planned to bring the ore up to Labinot, where a railroad under construction was to transport it to the sea.(1)

In the Kukes-Krama area of northeast Albania, those mineral strata which have been identified are similar to the strata of the central-eastern, section. The northeast section iron ores are to be found in the following locations: Mamez zone, near the Suk'e Mamzit mountain, at an altitude of 828 meters; Truls zone, southwest of the Mamez zone, near the Truls mountain; a few kilometers northeast of Kukes; and the Vranishte area near Kruma.(2)

The mineral strata are composed of brown hematite, compact, with thick pisolite or oolite, with a variable quantity of other oxides and especially of magnetite. The magnetite, in certain localities such as Morine, predominates over the hematite, bringing the percentage of iron ore to 70 percent.

In this region the transport problem is the most difficult because, even on completion of the Puke-Kukes road, the ore will have to be transported some 220 kilometers to the nearest port of San Giovanni di Medua. [The road has since been completed.] However, the high ore percentage will, at least in part, compensate for the major expense.

The presence of iron ores in quantity is possible in other regions: northeast of Elbasan; in the Shkërbice valley; on the coast of Himara; in the valley between Tepelene and Gjinokaster; in the Delvina hollow; in the Kserje River valley; and southeast of Kakavja [probably Kakavi village.]

(Prof. Ferdinando Milone, author of Albania Economica, expressed the opinion that potentially as much iron ore can be extracted from the Albanian mountains as is produced by mines of continental and insular Italy.) (1)

#### Chromite

Chromite is to be found in the Pogradec and Kukes regions. The strata are composed of lenticular masses, irregular in form and dimensions, and of only a few meters in depth, rarely reaching 10 meters.

Excavation is carried out by the open-pit method. The mineral is of good percentage and production is increasing continuously. Transportation is not too difficult in the Pogradec area, but is very difficult in the Kukes-Krama-Letaj region. The chromite strata of the latter region extend into Yugoslavia.(1)

#### Copper

Copper is to be found in the Mirdite area, along the Fani valley, approximately 15 kilometers from Lesh. The two principal mines are on the two sides of the valley; one at Bulshize, not far from Rubig, and the other on Derveni mountain.(7)

#### SOURCES

1. Rome, Albania Economica, by Prof. Ferdinando Milone, 1941
2. Rome, Albania, published by Reale Societa Geografica, 1943

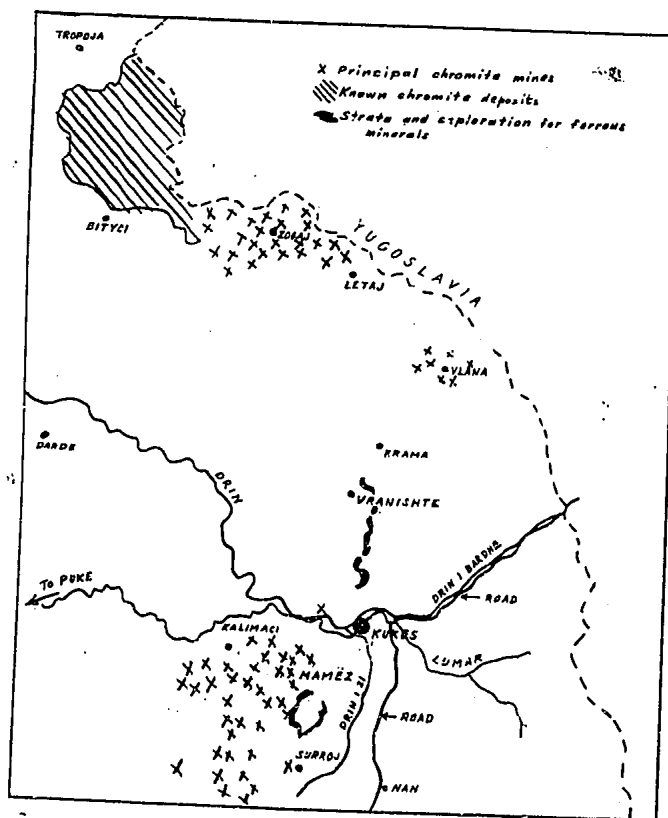
[The following three maps show the locations of chromite and ferrous ore deposits in the northeast and central-eastern regions, and of the principal mineral deposits throughout the country.]

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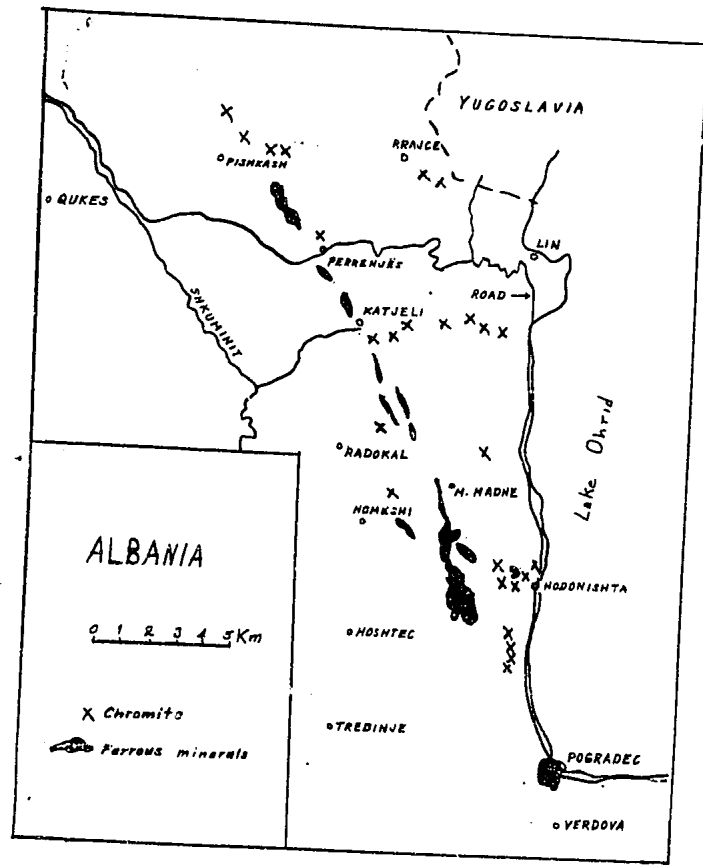
Map 1. Chromite and Ferrous Mineral Deposits in the Kukes-Krums Region of Northeast Albania. (1)

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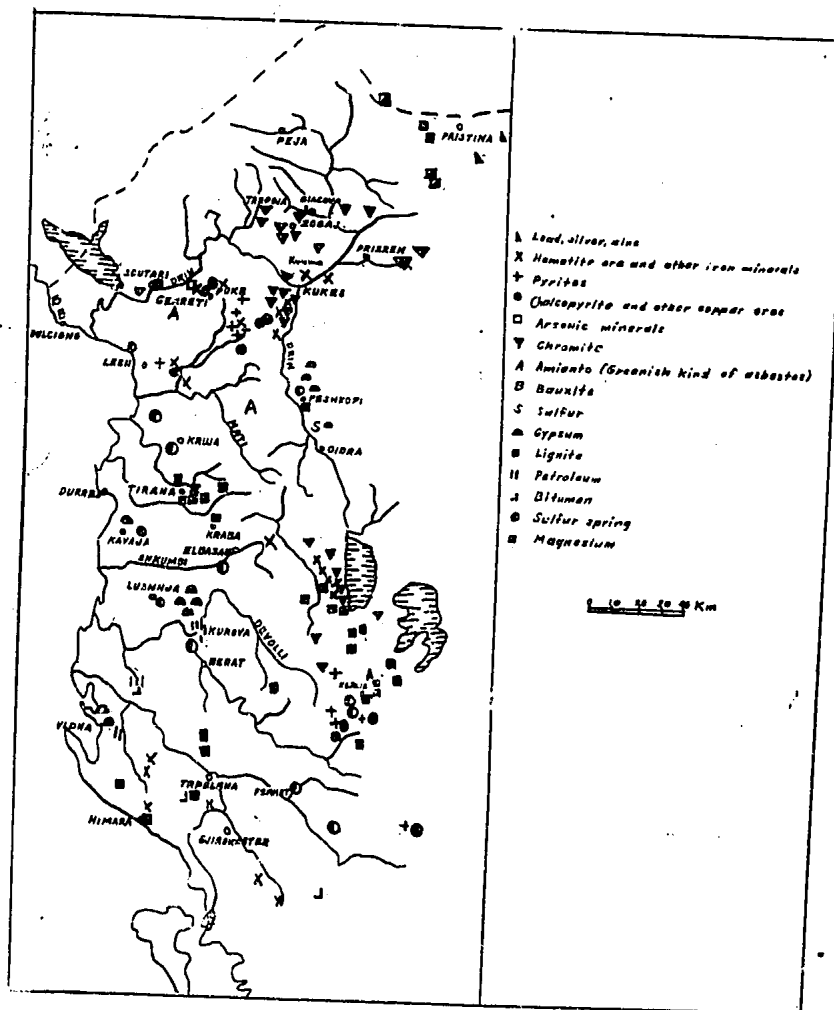


Map 2. Chromite and Ferrous Deposits in the Pogradec-Elbasan Region of Central-Eastern Albania. (1)

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Map 3. Principal Mineral Deposits in Albania. (2)

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